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ACCOUNT

OF THE

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES

TOWN OF MONT VERNON.

TOGETHER WITH THE

SCHOOL REPORT

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING MARCH 1ST, 1879.

NASHUA :

B. B. & F. P. WHITEMORE, BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS.

1879.

NEW HAMPSHIRE
STATE LIBRARY

REPORT OF THE OFFICERS

OF THE

TOWN OF MONT VERNON.

The Selectmen respectfully present to the Town of Mont Vernon their annual report of the receipts and expenditures for the year ending March 1st, 1879.

RECEIPTS.

Balance in Treasury, March 1st, 1878,	\$766 34	
Amount of taxes assessed,	3291 20	
Amount of money borrowed,	1200 00	
Lots sold in cemetery,	7 00	
For gravel and lumber sold,	3 96	
For stone sold,	20 00	
	<hr/>	\$5288 50
Received from Charles Wyman, as a		
gratuity toward building receiving tomb, 25 00	<hr/>	\$25 00
		<hr/>
		\$5313 50

RECEIVED FROM STATE.

Savings bank tax,	444 34	
Literary fund,	37 74	
Railroad tax,	46 95	
	<hr/>	\$529 03
		<hr/>
Whole amount of receipts,		\$5842 53

EXPENDITURES.

Paid State tax,	736 00	
County tax,	572 00	
	<hr/>	\$1308 00

SUPPORT OF SCHOOLS.

Paid Centre district,	280 00	
South "	149 32	
East "	100 00	
North "	93 00	
West "	74 68	
Amherst "	20 31	
	<hr/>	\$717 31
		<hr/>
		\$2025 31

Due Centre district,	\$48 38	
South "	12 78	
Paid McCollom Institute,	300 00	
	<hr/>	\$300 00
		<hr/>
		\$2325 31

BREAKING ROADS AND EXTRA REPAIRS TO
FEBRUARY 20th, 1879.

	B. R.	E. R.	
Paid District No. 2,	\$3 72		
" " 3,	3 55		
" " 4,	7 65	\$6 90	
" " 5,	11 36	37 68	
" " 6,	4 30		
" " 7,	5 17	1 92	
" " 8,	13 80	4 19	
" " 9,	11 46	8 50	
" " 10,	7 30	3 50	
" " 11,	4 87	7 51	
" " 12,	7 43	8 56	
" " 13,	18 98	3 00	
" " 14,	2 25	8 45	
" " 15,		27 67	
" " 16,	10 92	4 20	
" " 17,	8 16	6 60	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	
	\$120 92	\$128 68	
		<hr/>	\$249 60

RECEIVING TOMB.

Paid Everett Hutchinson for finishing tomb,	110 00	
	<hr/>	\$110 00

CEMETERY WALL.

Paid Pierce Perham, for building cemetery wall and furnishing stone,	384 42	
for hauling gravel for foundation,	19 25	
for labor at cemetery,	37 10	
	<hr/>	\$440 77

TRAMP HOUSE.

Paid for lumber,	32 90	
for nails, irons, padlocks & window,	7 16	
for labor,	9 85	
for furnishing goods,	1 55	
	<hr/>	\$51 46

REPAIRS OF BELFRY AND TOWN HOUSE.

Paid for repairs on belfry,	78 31	
for funnel and labor at town house,	11 60	
	<hr/>	\$89 91

SUPPORT OF CHARLES SMITH AND ANGELINE SMITH.

Paid John Smith to March 25th, 1879,	104 00	
	<hr/>	\$104 00

SUPPORT OF W. H. BROWN.

Paid for support of Brown at Insane Asylum,	61 68	
E. A. Butler, for board of Brown from May 17, 1878, to Jan. 31, 1879,	92 50	
for removing Brown from Concord to Mont Vernon,	5 00	
Town of Bedford, for wood furnished Brown,	3 00	
for clothing for Brown to March 1, 1879,	6 33	
for three trips to Manchester and two to Amherst, on Brown's case,	8 40	
for counsel on Brown's case,	1 00	
	<hr/>	\$177 91

SWININGTON ROAD.

Paid land damages,	167 00	
for building the road,	157 30	
expenses for hearings, laying out and accepting of road,	8 00	
for surveying road,	2 00	
for railing,	4 00	
	<hr/>	\$338 30

ROBINSON ROAD.

Paid land damages,	267 33	
for referees' services,	7 50	
E. M. Shattuck, for labor,	25 00	
Expenses of hearings, laying out, &c.,	7 75	
for surveying and advertising,	3 00	
	<hr/>	\$310 58

TOWN OFFICERS' SERVICES.

Paid Henry F. Dodge, selectman,	\$57 25	
Thomas H. McQuestion, "	40 50	
Charles H. Raymond, "	35 00	
	<hr/>	\$132 75
Paid George W. Averill, collector,	\$50 00	
John M. Fox, town clerk,	20 00	
Clark Campbell, treasurer,	18 00	
John W. Carson, superintending school committee,	35 00	
E. F. Trow, constable,	4 00	
A. Travis, moderator,	3 00	
A Travis and Wm. G. Bruce, au- ditors,	3 00	
	<hr/>	\$133 00

ABATEMENTS.

H. M. Fairfield's taxes for 1877,	\$8 53	
George Blanchard's taxes for 1876 and 1877,	1 99	
Simeon F. Kendall's poll tax for the years of 1872, '73, '74, '75, '76 and '77. dis- abled soldier,	9 54	
Israel Burnham, disabled soldier,	9 54	
Samuel J. Beard, " "	8 29	
M. E. Rotch, over-tax 1877,	1 29	
Heirs of S. L. Christie, over tax,	10 50	
Gardner Rideout, "	1 05	

Onslow Hoit,	1 05	
Fred Williams,	1 05	
	<hr/>	\$52 83
Non-resident highway receipts,	\$63 23	
	<hr/>	\$63 23

MISCELLANEOUS.

Paid Drs. Bunton and Hinds for record of births and deaths,	\$5 00	
bounties for 21 foxes,	10 50	
“ 30 hawks,	6 00	
S. H. Dunbar for sheep killed by dogs 1877,	3 50	
Dr. C. M. Dodge for damage to horse on highway,	14 50	
for visiting the horse and road,	1 00	
for collector's book, stationery, etc.,	2 20	
for digging ten graves, taking care of yard, hearse, etc.,	25 00	
for selling to lots,	42	
C. H. Raymond, keeping one tramp,	1 00	
for keeping 3 tramps at tramp house,	1 50	
for paint for safe,	50	
John M. Fox for recording invoice, and reporting the same to the County Commissioners,	3 00	
Wm. Conant, watering trough,	3 00	
for tolling bell,	4 00	
for school notices and report cards,	3 00	
for school books for Fairfield's and John A. Johnson's children,	1 82	
for expressage,	95	
for watching steam-mill fire,	1 00	
for printing town and school re- ports, for 1877,	20 00	
George E. Mills, special police,	2 00	
	<hr/>	\$109 89
A. S. Bruce, note and interest,	217 93	
	<hr/>	\$217 93
		<hr/>
Whole amount of bills paid,		\$4907 47
Amount of receipts,	\$5842 53	
Bills paid,	4907 47	
	<hr/>	
Balance in treasury,	\$935 06	

NOTES AGAINST THE TOWN.

A. S. Bruce,	note and interest,	\$332 31
A. W. Raymond,	"	307 50
McCollom Institute,	"	307 20
L. E. Nutt,	"	507 50
A. W. Raymond,	"	101 08

 \$1555,59

Balance in treasury, 935 06

 Indebtedness of town, \$620 53

HENRY F. DODGE,
 THOMAS H. McQUESTION, } Selectmen of
 CHARLES H. RAYMOND, } Mont Vernon.

March 1, 1879.—We have this day examined the above report and find the same correctly cast and properly vouched.

G. W. AVERILL, }
 H. H. TROW, } Auditors.

 TREASURER'S REPORT.

The Treasurer of the Town of Mont Vernon submits the following report for the year ending March 1, 1879.

To cash in Treasury March, 1878,	\$110 37
Note for uncollected taxes for 1873,	41 00
" " " 1876,	4 60
" " " 1877,	610 37
Money borrowed 1878,	1200 00
Money received from State on Banks, Railroads, etc.,	529 03
Received of Charles Wyman on building town tomb a gift of	25 00
Cash received of selectmen for lots in cemetery, gravel and stone sold,	30 96
Money received of collector for 1878,	2741 20
Note for uncollected taxes for 1878,	550 00

 \$5842 53

	CR.	
By paying the following:		
" " State tax,	\$736 00	
" " County tax,	572 00	
Note for uncollected taxes for 1873,	41 00	
" " " 1878,	550 00	
Paying A. S. Bruce's note and interest,	217 93	
" 82 orders of Selectmen,	3381 54	
	<hr/>	\$5498 47
Whole amount of receipts,	\$5842 53	
Whole amount of bills paid,	5498 47	
	<hr/>	
Balance in treasury,	\$344 06	

FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE TOWN.

Indebtedness,	\$1555 59
Notes for uncollected taxes and money in treasury,	935 06
	<hr/>
Balance against the Town,	\$620 53

All of which is respectfully submitted,

CLARK CAMPBELL, Town Treasurer.

We have examined the above report and find the same correctly cast and properly vouched.

G. W. AVERILL, }
H. H. TROW, } Auditors.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

CITIZENS: In accordance with law and usage, we present the following annual report of the schools of Mont Vernon, placed under our supervision:

From a want of that knowledge which comes of a long and intimate acquaintance with the schools, we have turned for the guidance of our way to the reports of our predecessors. That these statements of the past condition of our schools have been a great aid is a fact too apparent to need demonstration.— We shall offer no apology for our errors—shall expect criticism—and claim the right to criticise others.

In dealing with the subject before us, we shall confine our efforts to the statement of facts as they have transpired, and make no attempt to theorize upon the ways and means of education.

EXAMINATION OF TEACHERS.

The first work of the year was a notice to the several Prudential Committees, that a meeting of teachers for the purpose of a written examination would be held in the Center District School Room, at a time therein mentioned. In making out the schedule of examination, our main care was to have it of sufficient breadth to cover all possible cases that might arise in regard to scholarship; and later experience has shown that the standard was high enough. At the meeting were read extracts from the writings of our best teachers, setting forth briefly the method of government in foreign countries, and comparing the mild suasion of to-day, in this country, with the stern discipline of our fathers. Extracts from the laws of N. H., relating to the duty of teachers were also read, for this knowledge should be possessed by every teacher. The results of the examination proved that, so far as technical knowledge was concerned, the teachers were well qualified.

GOVERNMENT.

Obedient to the spirit of the age, the teachers went to their work with a just appreciation of the importance of their vocation, and with a determination to govern by moral suasion, by an appeal to the higher feelings, the generous impulses, and the consenting reason of those placed under their charge. It is possible, had this method been supported by experience, and a little more firmness on the part of teachers, it would have been a success in every case.

That the discipline maintained in the schools the past year, will compare favorably with that of other years we have no doubt; but to say, that it has been good in every instance, would be a misstatement of facts, and of no service to any one.

We grant that teachers have gone wrong in some instances, wrong in granting too much freedom to young scholars, who always take advantage of it.

Defects in management have been pointed out, and in no case have we met with a teacher who thought her way was the only way.

But when insubordination has been a prominent feature in the history of a school, for a term of years, we must of necessity conclude that errors are committed outside of the school-room, and over which the teacher has no control. That the parents are actuated by a high sense of the importance of our schools there is no doubt; but, that they commit errors as well as teachers, is equally certain. To suppose one child can acquire knowledge as readily as another is a mistaken notion, and the parent who seeks to push his child along in his studies contrary to the judgment of the teacher, not only injures the child, but every member of the class to which the child belongs. Then, again, this interference on the part of parents tends to lessen the respect that the child bears toward his teacher, and consequently the whole school is affected. In some cases, children are sent to school with the expectation that they are to enjoy the same liberties that are granted them upon the home play-ground and by the fireside. But certain restrictions upon the child attending school, are as necessary as upon people living in a community. The good citizen is willing to give up certain natural rights that he may enjoy the blessings of society; and children should be taught that they must yield up some of the privileges they enjoy at home if they would become useful members of the school.

We conclude this subject by advising that much care should be used in selecting teachers for disturbed schools, bearing in

mind always that there is less difficulty in regard to scholarship than almost anything else.

TEXT BOOKS.

The change of reading books commenced by our predecessor, has been completed. That the change was desirable is beyond question; and we might add in this connection, that other text books used in our schools are of inferior rank. A proper supply of books being absolutely necessary, we have not hesitated to procure them at the expense of the town when they were not otherwise obtained. We have held, and advised, that no teacher should allow a scholar to make a practice of studying his lessons from the books of others; for it not only disturbs the whole school, but deprives the owners of their just rights.

REPORT CARDS.

The introduction of Report Cards into our schools, properly belongs to the Committee of the Center District. We were early convinced of their utility, and so stated at the close of the spring schools. We consulted the opinion of the teachers in regard to the matter, and found them in favor of their introduction. If this innovation does not receive the approval of all, we feel sure it meets the approbation of the majority. By the aid of these weekly reports, parents can know something of the progress of their children, even though they find no time to visit the school.

THE NEW MAP OF N. H.

At the last session of our State Legislature, an act was passed, authorizing the board of selectmen and school committee to purchase the new map of the State, and pay for the same out of the school funds. A general description of the work would be out of place here, and we pass it by with the simple declaration that it is the most complete map of the State ever published. The selectmen after due consideration gave their sanction to its purchase, and consequently it will be in the schools at the opening of the next spring term.

WEST DISTRICT.

This school has been under the instruction of Miss Annie I. Riley during the year. That her services are appreciated by the citizens of this District, is evidenced by the fact, that this is the second year of her charge over their children. Miss Riley is a practical teacher and a thorough scholar, well fitted to teach any district school within our knowledge. We find in this school some of the most advanced scholars in town; two

young ladies being well advanced in algebra, and understanding thoroughly what they have been over. At the close of the spring term, the little room made pleasant by a profuse display of the evergreen and flower, was filled with parents and friends. Among the many features of interest connected with the examination, perhaps none were more noticeable than the readiness with which scholars answered practical questions. In this respect the West District is ahead. The closing exercises of the fall term, showed that thorough work had been done. The school is left in a prosperous condition, and it should be the care of the citizens to keep it so.

NORTH DISTRICT.

Spring and fall terms were taught by Miss Carrie F. Averill of this town. This was Miss Averill's first experience in teaching; and though the character of the school was not well calculated to inspire enthusiasm on the part of the teacher, yet it was a success so far as any teacher could make it. Much attention was paid to orthography, and the Little Girl, as a speller, is without a peer among the little girls of our schools. Mr. A. H. Bruce attended the examination of the fall term, and made a favorable report.

This school has been reduced in numbers nearly one half since last year, and is much too small to use its funds advantageously. If a union with the West District could be secured it would be an advantage to both parties.

EAST DISTRICT.

Miss Esther C. Kendall, teacher for the year. This is the second year of Miss Kendall's work in this district, and she has fully sustained the enviable reputation earned last year.—The scholars pay willing obedience to the commands of their teacher, and nothing occurs that the strictest disciplinarian could criticize. This in many respects is the pleasantest school in town. The school-room is adorned with suggestive mottoes which will ever give character to the school. At the close of the spring term, as in the West District, the room was tastefully adorned, which added much to the pleasure of the occasion.—Many questions were asked, and in the main well answered; in fact so many were asked that we had to apologize. The rhetorical exercises were a marked feature, and the "Rock of Ages" was rendered in a manner that would have done credit to a professional.

We failed to be present at the close of the fall term, but have heard favorable reports.

SOUTH DISTRICT.

Spring term. Miss Mary E. McLane, teacher. Miss McLane came to the District with some experience as a teacher, and so far as literary attainments were concerned gave every promise of success. That her efforts were not crowned with success, was evident to friends who listened to the very poor examination at the close of the term. There are some influences at work in this district which render the school of secondary consequence; and no teacher can be entirely successful, as long as these influences exist. Miss McLane was painstaking and kind—kind to a fault, where kindness is taken advantage of. We have no doubt of her success in other fields.

Fall term, taught by Miss A. N. Colburn, of New Boston.—With considerable experience, together with that quality known as independence of character, she taught the school in a manner acceptable to all. The examination was a great improvement on that of the spring term. But one term is not sufficient to eradicate deep rooted errors, and the district should use all possible care in the selection of teachers.

X CENTER DISTRICT. X

Spring term, taught by Miss Ella A. Averill, of class '81, Wellesly College, it being the third consecutive term of her charge over the school. Miss Averill is an able teacher, and that she has done much to elevate the standard of this school is evident by the record of last year.

The discipline was not sufficiently stringent as we thought, but there is a point, beyond which a teacher cannot go, and retain the friendship of the scholars. The teacher's intimate knowledge of the school would make her judgment better than ours, and therefore it should receive the preference.

The examination elicited that the drill in the various studies had been thorough, and the occasion should be remembered with honest pride by every member of the district.

Fall and Winter terms; taught by Miss Ellen F. Conant, a graduate of Abbott Female Seminary, Andover, Mass. Miss Conant came to the district without experience and we think without the unanimous support of the district. At our first visit we found the school in a bad condition, although, with apparent friendship existing between teacher and scholars. It would seem, that there was but little conception of what belonged to the discipline of a district school.

We advised a change to a more rigid discipline. And when

we again visited the school it was a matter of surprise that the standard of order could be so much improved in one week..

Miss Conant taught the term through with a reasonable degree of success. The examination was fair, though it lacked the thoroughness of the preceding one.

Winter term. After the experience of last term, we were of the opinion that Miss Conant would do better with the school than a stranger. She commenced her work with the knowledge that school-teaching was a reality, and with an honest purpose to succeed. That she did not meet with the success that her efforts would seem to warrant is no cause of censure from us. There has been an element in the school over which kindness has no influence, and to hold a teacher responsible for the rude conduct of boys who have arrived to man's estate, is wrong and unjust. We speak as a disinterested observer without prejudice, without taking counsel with any person in the District and with utter disregard to flying rumors; and our conclusion is, that the teacher did the best she possibly could for the advancement of the school.

The examination was not without merit, and friends spoke in terms of commendation both of teacher and scholars.

We conclude with the following language, found in last year's report: "If there exist any unkindness, any party feeling, any unchristian thought, let us hope it will be laid aside for the future, that the children of this school district and their teachers may enjoy the benefits of joint sympathy, united action and oneness of co-operation in their behalf."

ROLL OF HONOR.

Names of scholars who have not been absent or tardy during the year:

Center District—Belle Smith, Nettie L. Jenkins, Frank Pike.

South District—Fannie L. Dodge, Frank D. Trow, Georgie A. Mills.

East District—Etta B. May, Marcia E. Batchelder, H. Eva Brown, Clara M. Brown, M. Susie Kendall, Sarah Fairfield, Annie E. Fairfield, Bertha S. McQuestion.

West District—Allie E. Upton.

CONDENSED STATEMENT.

District.	Summer, Fall and Winter Terms.	Name of Teacher.	Length of term in weeks.	No. of pupils.	Boys.	Girls.	Average attendance.	Wages of teachers, including board.	Visits by Superintending Committee.	Visits by Prudential Committee.	Visits by citizens and others.	No. of pupils under five years of age.	No. of pupils over sixteen years of age.	No. of pupils who have not been absent.	No. studying.			
															Algebra.	Philosophy.	Drawing.	Vocal Music.
X Center.	S.	Miss E. A. Averill.	10 29	12 17	26	\$30.00	3 3 32	1	10									
	F.	Miss E. F. Conant.	10 39	15 24	34	\$30.00	3 3 31	1	14									
	W.	" " "	12 32	16 16	29	\$30.00	2 1 24		3	10								
South.	S.	Miss M. E. McLane.	11 11	8 3	9	\$20.00	3 2 18		2	24	2	2	6	1				
	F.	Miss A. H. Colburn.	11 25	16 9	19	\$30.00	2 2 24		2	2	2	5	1					
East.	S.	Miss E. P. Kendall.	8 23	11 12	21	\$20.00	3 1 17					11	3	3				9
	F.	" " "	9 18	8 10	16	\$24.00	1 1 17					9						6
North.	S.	Miss C. F. Averill.	10 5	4 1	4	\$19.00	2 15					2						
	F.	" " "	9 5	4 1	3	\$19.00	2 4					1						
West.	S.	Miss A. I. Riley.	7 13	7 6	12	\$17.00	3 2 14					1	6					
	F.	" " "	11 9	5 4	7	\$17.00	2 2 10					1	1	2				

Amount of money raised by town,

\$733 01

Literary Fund,

37 74

Amount allotted Center District,

\$323 34

" " South "

162 10

" " East "

100 00

" " North "

93 00

" " West "

72 00

" " 8th, Amherst,

20 31

J. W. CARSON.

Mont Vernon, March 1, 1879.